HORRID
NEVVS
Of a Barbarous
MURDER
Committed
At Plimouth.

On the Bodies of
AN ANTIENT WOMAN AND HER DAUGHTER,

By the Malicious Contrivance of a Nurſe they entertain'd in the Houſe, and an Apprentice-Maid; Who agreed to Poyſon their Two Miſtreſſes: And accordingly effected it, by boyling *Mercury* in their Broth, upon a Sunday as they were at Church: Inſomuch that having eaten but a little of the Broth, they dyed within a very few Hours.

With an account of the obſtinate and ſtedfaſt denials of *Elizabeth Cary* the Nurſe, notwithſtanding the impeachment of *Ann Evans* the Apprentice-Maid, who hath confeſſed that they were both Guilty of the Murder, and accordingly they were Sentenced, one to be Hang'd, the other to be Burned to Death at *Plimouth* aforeſaid, upon the 30*th.* of this inſtant *March*, 1676.

Licenſed, H. Oldenburg.

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The Edwin J. Beinecke Fund

HORRID
NEWS
Of a Barbarous
MURDER
Committed at
Plimouth; &c.

ALthough there is ſcarce a County to be named throughout all the Circuits of this Lent-Aſſizes, that has not afforded us very ſad inſtances of moſt barbarous and bloody murders; yet I dare affirm there is none that af-

ſordeth a ſadder than that I am about to relate.

There lately lived a Gentlewoman with her Daughter, both of very good faſhion and repute, inſomuch that I ſhall not expoſe their names to the World, in regard it ſeems not very material to ſuch as have no acquaintance in thoſe parts; and for thoſe that have they cannot be unacquainted with a ſtory ſo notoriouſly known in all parts of the Weſt, eſpecially in the Countys of *Devon* and *Cornwel*.

This young Gentlewoman being married, lived it ſeems in the ſame houſe with her Mother, and either for her better convenience or ſatisfaction choſe to keep a Nurſe, who living in the houſe with the Mother and Grandmother of the Child, proved to be of a very ungrateful and malicious ſpirit; and in proceſs of time (for what cauſe I know not) contrived the means of putting them both to Death: To effect this, ſhe imparts the ſecret to a Wench of about Eighteen Years of Age, living likewiſe in the houſe in the nature of an Apprentice-Maid. Having communicated to her a ſecret of this importance, the Reader may imagine there were no Injunctions to ſecreſie, wanting on the one hand, nor proteſtations of it on the other: ſo that the matter being mutually agreed upon, the manner of executing it was the

next [illegible] conſidered of. As many ways came i[illegible] as the malice of the Devil could [illegible] or the wit of a revengeful woman inver[illegible], but poyſoning was look'd upon as the ſafeſt, and conſequently agreed to as the beſt expedient to accompliſh this helliſh deſign. And in order to this the Maid was employed as the fitteſt agent to procure ſome Mercury in the town, which whether by her intereſt, or under ſome ſpecious pretence, ſhe in ſhort time effected, notwithſtanding the prohibitions that are made, and the care that is (or ought to be) taken to the contrary.

All things now being in readineſs, there Remained nothing wanting but an opportunity, which they who reſolve to act ill ſeldome want long: For Sunday being near at hand, and either by cuſtome or particular order, the Pot deſign'd to be ſet on, they agreed to infuſe their Mercury in the Broth, which was concluded on as the ſecureſt way, in regard that upon any ſuſpition they might plead accident for it. This accordingly they effected on the Sunday following, and while the Miſtreſſes were in the Temple ſerving God, and providing for the welfare of their ſouls, the ſervants remained at home doing Vaſſalage to the Devil, and contriving the deſtruction of their bodies, all which they accompliſhed accordingly. For at their return from Morning Sermon, being ſomewhat cold, they each of them call'd for a meſs of warm broth,

broth, which they had no ſooner eaten, but immediately they began to ſwell, and to find in themſelves all the ſimptomes of being poyſoned, which increas'd ſo faſt upon them that in ſpight of all remedies and antidotes that could be thought of or given to them in few hours they dyed. Hereupon, not onely their Relations but even the whole Town began to be alarm'd with ſo ſad an accident, and upon the concurrence of accidents to ſuſpect the two Criminals of being as guilty as really they were: upon this ſuſpition they were examined before a Juſtice of the Peace, and ſent to *Plimouth* Goal, whence they were removed to *Exeter*, there to be arraigned at the next Aſſizes. In this interval, Divines and others applyed themſelves to the priſoners, endeavouring by ſollicitations and perſwaſions to work them to a confeſſion, to which the Nurſe would by no means be wrought, but continued in obſtinate denyals of her being any way concern'd in the fact, either as acceſſary or principal; but the Maid tho' ſhe continued a long time very ſtubborn, yet at the laſt confeſſed the whole truth; how that the Nurſe had inſtigated her to poyſon her Miſtreſſes, and had hired her with the promiſe of a ſum of money to procure the Mercury, with each particular circumſtance as I have before related. Nevertheleſs though the Maid continued thus free in her confeſsion, when they came to be arraigned, the Nurſe continued as impudent in her denyals, both

before

before and at her tryal, and after her condemnation.

Many have been the ſurmiſes and Opinions of men concerning the motives that induced the Nurſe to an act ſo horrid and deteſtable; ſome ſay barely malice, others, hopes of gain, but whatever is alledged in this caſe can be no more than Conjectural, ſince ſhe has hitherto kept it within her own Wicked and ſtubborn breaſt. As for the the Maid, ſhe ſeems to be very penitent, and continues ſtedfaſt in her accrimination of the Nurſe, to be the incendiary and chief contriver of ſo horrid a murder; Upon which and other circumſtantial evidence, they both received the ſentence of Death, the fifteenth of this inſtant *March*, at *Exeter* in *Devonſhire*: The Nurſe to be hang'd, and the Maid to be burned to Death at *Plimouth*, as being convicted of petty Treaſon for murdering her Miſtreſs, contrary to the ſtature in that caſe made and provided; which ſentence is accordingly ordered to be put in Execution the 30*th*. of this inſtant *March*, 1676. Miniſters and others endeavouring in the mean time to perſwade the Nurſe to make a free Confeſsion of her guilt to God and the world, which 'tis hoped will be ſo far prevalent with her, ſo to awaken her out of that Lethargy, and melt her obdurate heart into contrition and penitence.

FINIS.